Catch the CAT

WHEN Britain and France were at war with Germany, the Germans invaded France in 1940. The citizens of one small town watched in dismay and did as little to help the invaders as possible. One young girl, Marie Bonnet, earned the contempt of her friends by appearing to be too friendly with the Germans. No-one suspected Marie of being a daring resister known as—'The Cat'!

But the Cat was no longer in the factory—or on the streets—

IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BREAK INTO THE FACTORY AGAIN. THE GERMANS ARE BOUND TO INCREASE THEIR GUARDS THERE.

In through the window and into her bedroom.

BUT I MUST GO BACK! I MUST BE THERE WHEN THE ALLIED BOMBERS COME OVER, TO GUIDE THEM TO THEIR TARGET.

Marie was just in time for supper.

WHAT WAS ALL THE FUSS IN TOWN, DEAR?

THE GERMANS THOUGHT THEY'D CAUGHT THE CAT, BUT THEY WERE UNLUCKY. THEY'LL NEVER CATCH HIM, HE'S TOO SMART FOR THEM.

THE CAT HAD PUT TORCHES ON TOP OF THE CHEMICAL FACTORY—THEY WERE GOING TO BE USED TO GUIDE BRITISH BOMBER PLANES!

THE CAT WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!

THE CAT MUST MAKE A SECOND CHANCE—SOMEHOW!

In the morning on her way to school, Marie walked past the chemical factory.

GOSH, THEY'VE GOT A SENTRY EVERY FEW YARDS!

Marie had made friends with the German Commandant and often overheard secret information.

LOOK! THERE'S MARIE BONNET WITH HER GERMAN PAL!

GOOD MORNING, MY FRIEND! HAVE YOU NO FRESH EGGS FOR ME TODAY?

I WILL BRING YOU SOME TOMORROW, HERR COMMANDANT!

As Marie walked on—
BOOOOOOO! TRAITOR!
YOU OUGHT TO BE RUN OUT OF TOWN, MARIE BONNET!
IF YOU HAD HALF THE COURAGE OF THE ONE THEY CALL THE CAT— YOU MIGHT BE WORTH TALKING TO!
IF ONLY SHE KNEW THE TRUTH.
In school, Marie sat alone.
HERE, JOSEE, SIT NEXT TO ME! LET HER SIT BY HERSELF! NO DECENT FRENCH GIRL WANTS TO BE NEAR HER.
ONE DAY THEY WILL LEARN EVERY-THING, BUT UNTIL THEN I MUST GRIN AND BEAR IT!
The following day—
I HAVE EGGS FOR THE COMMAN-DANT. I PROMISED TO BRING THEM.
ACH, SO! YOU ARE MARIE BONNET? YOU MAY ENTER.
GOOD MORNING, COMMANDANT! FRESH EGGS FOR YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK GOODNESS YOU ARE A SENSIBLE GIRL AND NOT LIKE THE REST OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE—AND THAT NUISANCE—THE CAT!
I HEAR THE CAT WAS NEARLY CAUGHT AT THE CHEMICAL FACTORY, SIR?
HE GAVE US THE SLIP, BUT HE WON'T GET INSIDE AGAIN. I HAVE SENTRIES EVERYWHERE. THE CAT WILL NEVER GUIDE R.A.F. PLANES TO THAT PLACE NOW.

IN TWO DAYS TIME DOZENS OF THESE GUNS WILL RING THE FACTORY! NOT ONE BOMBER WILL GET PAST THEM, MY DEAR!
I MUST WARN LONDON. THEY MUST RAID THE FACTORY BEFORE THESE GUNS ARE POSITIONED.

That evening—
I CANNOT WAIT UNTIL IT IS SAFE. I MUST GET TO HENRI'S HOUSE. NOW!

Henri was a Resistance fighter who operated the radio.
THE CAT!
HENRI, I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR LONDON! AN URGENT MESSAGE!

HELLO, LONDON. THE CAT SAYS THE CHEMICAL FACTORY WILL BE PIN-POINTED FOR BOMBERS TOMORROW NIGHT. NEW DEFENCES MAKE LATER RAID IMPOSSIBLE.
MESSAGE RECEIVED. TELL THE CAT WE'LL BE THERE!

Marie worked late that night—
THIS DUMMY CAT SHOULD DECEIVE THE GERMANS FROM A DISTANCE. IT WILL GIVE ME THE TIME I NEED.

And, the following night—
THIS WILL DO.

Ten minutes later—
LOOK! THERE IN THE TREE—THE CAT! SOUND THE ALARM!
Meanwhile, at another part of the factory—
NOW, I MUST HOPE THAT THE TINS OF PAINT I SAW WHEN I WAS IN HERE LAST HAVE NOT BEEN MOVED!
THE GERMANS TOOK THE TORCHES I BROUGHT IN LAST TIME. IT IS FITTING THAT I USE THEIR MATERIALS NOW.
AH, GOOD THEY ARE STILL HERE. NOW I MUST WORK QUICKLY!
IF I'M SEEN NOW, I'M FINISHED!
And then—
THIS SHOULD SHOW UP WELL IN THE MOONLIGHT.

Meanwhile—
WELL, IF THE CAT WON'T SURRENDER—OPEN FIRE!
YES, HERR COMMANDANT!
HA, HA! GOT HIM! THAT IS THE END OF THE CAT!
But—
IT—IT'S A DUMMY!
IT'S NOT THE CAT! IT'S A TRICK! SEARCH THE FACTORY—THE CAT HAS HOODWINKED US! HE MUST BE INSIDE!
As they rushed through the gates—
THE CAT! HE'S BEEN HERE!
And then, overhead, was heard the sound of aeroplane engines.
THAT'S THE TARGET. THE CAT SAID WE'D SEE IT—AND BY JOVE HE'S RIGHT. STAND BY FOR BOMBING RUN!

WE ARE BEING BOMBED! THE CAT HAS DONE THIS!

In the morning, a member of the dreaded Secret Police came to see the Commandant.
UNLESS YOU FIND THIS PERSON CALLED ' THE CAT '—YOU WILL BE SENT TO THE RUSSIAN FRONT, HERR COMMANDANT! YOU WILL NOT LIKE IT THERE.
NO, HERR OBER—NOT THAT! I WILL FIND THE CAT. ONE DAY SOON, I WILL CATCH HIM. YOU HAVE MY WORD!

THE CAT DID THAT. HE MUST BE THE BRAVEST AND CLEVEREST PERSON IN ALL OF FRANCE!
YES, THE CAT WILL HELP TO DEFEAT THE GERMANS AND CLEAR THEM FROM OUR COUNTRY!

NOT THE BRAVEST PERSON— JUST THE LONELIEST!

MARIE BONNET, YOUR HOMEWORK IS HOPELESS! ALL YOUR SUMS ARE WRONG!
—AND CERTAINLY NOT THE CLEVEREST!

YOU WILL STAY BEHIND AFTER LESSONS AND DO YOUR SUMS AGAIN.
HA, HA, HA! SERVES HER RIGHT!
IT'S NOT EASY BEING THE CAT!
THE END